

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket Number 14936US02

CERTIFICATION OF ELECTRONIC FILING

IN THE APPLICATION OF:

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)
) *I hereby certify that this correspondence is being
electronically filed with the Patent and Trademark
Office on February 14, 2011.*

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Serial No.: 10/720,931

)
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Filed: November 24, 2003

For: GAMING SYSTEM FOR
TRACKING PLAYER ACTIVITY
DURING VIRTUAL SESSIONS AT
A GAMING MACHINE

Examiner: Paul Anthony D'Agostino

Group Art Unit: 3714

Confirmation No.: 5239

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE
UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.104(e)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This communication is in response to the Examiner's statement of the reasons for allowance of the claims, contained within the Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due mailed November 12, 2010.

Applicants wish to comment on the Examiner's statement regarding the reasons for allowance of claims 1 – 3, 92, 94, and 98 first by pointing out that the Examiner's statement

mischaracterizes the subject matter of allowed claim 1. For example, the Examiner's statement states that the method of Applicants' claimed invention includes "subsequent to the removal of the player card from the one gaming machine, identifying a start of a first virtual gaming session associated with the player account, wherein said start of the first virtual gaming session occurs in response to an entry of value on the one gaming machine indication that the removal of the player card occurred while a game was in progress on the one gaming machine, while credits were available for play on the one gaming machine, or both" (emphasis added). The Examiner appears to be referring to allowed claim 1. However, the underlined portion of that statement is not part of claim 1 as allowed because it was deleted by Applicants prior to allowance.

The Examiner's statement also states that the method of the Applicant's claimed invention includes "identifying an end of the first virtual gaming session associated with the player account, wherein said end of the first virtual gaming session occurs before the start of the first regular gaming session and in response to either re-insertion of the player card into the one gaming machine or all credits left over from the regular gaming session being spent" (emphasis added). Again, the Examiner appears to be referring to allowed claim 1, and again, the underlined portion of the statement is not part of claim 1 as allowed because it was deleted by Applicants prior to allowance.

Moreover, Applicants wish to comment on the Examiner's statement regarding the reasons for allowance of claims 1 – 3, 92, 94, and 98 by pointing out that the reasons set forth by the Examiner refer only to certain features of independent claim 1 are not the only reasons that claims 1 – 3, 92, 94, and 98 are allowable. Claim 1 may include additional patentable features or combinations of features not mentioned by the Examiner or taught or suggested by the prior art.

Additionally, each of the dependant claims 2, 3, 92, 94, and 98 may include additional patentable features or combinations of features not mentioned by the Examiner.

As such, claims 1 – 3, 92, 94, and 98 may additionally be patentable for reasons not mentioned by the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 14, 2011

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